

Stop Feeding the Greedy Telecommunications Guys!

Net Neutrality

In 1995 the Telecommunications Industry informed everybody that they were installing FiberOptics throughout the USA. It has been 16 years, and it has NEVER BEEN DONE, only in other countries in the world do they have FiberOptics with speeds on the internet 10X faster than DSL and much clearer communication lines.

The USA is lagging in better Telephone and Internet Services because the Telecommunications industry realized that they would lose MONEY if they permitted Net Neutrality with better Fiber Optics. They would lose their control over the Public. So, Telecommunications BROKE THEIR PROMISE TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE and did not install FiberOptics, Wave of the Future, telecommunications for better, faster & clearer communications.

They opted instead to influence the FTC and FCC to create greater controls over the Public so they can extract more MONEY from US Residences and Business. THIS IS UNFAIR TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE while other countries out-perform us in their telecommunications.

Please restore the FREEDOMS of the American People that have been taken away by these Telecommunications GIANTS whose excuse is they are protecting the US by preventing Negative information ie pornography, terrorists, child molestation, bomb-creation which can more easily be eliminated by individual choices of filtering internet content. These Telecommunications Giants pretend to protect the unaware American Public with restrictions, while secretly fattening their wallets by limiting the public's freedoms and charging them accordingly. TELECOMMUNICATION monopolies are curtailing US Progress and creating a windfall of profits in the process keeping the Public, Government & Regulatory Agencies UNDER THEIR THUMB. The Telecommunications GIANT is bigger than both the FCC and FTC and GOV. and can afford to buy them 'OFF', keeping USA PROGRESS DEPRESSED for years to come.

DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS PROBLEM NOW! PROMOTING NET NEUTRALITY allows USA to GROW and be more COMPETITIVE in the WORLD. Put a COLLAR on these TELECOMMUNICATIONS THIEVES! Let's get back to AMERICAN FREEDOM BASICS!

LATEST: Congress is currently in recess, but Senator Ted Stevens' (R-AK) net neutrality bill may come up for a vote once lawmakers return for lame duck session in November. Unless it's fixed, his bill would censor online content and create barriers for Americans to access the internet.

The creation and dynamic growth of the Internet is in part the result of strong Net Neutrality protection. All of that changed last year, when the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) suddenly repealed longstanding Internet non-discrimination principles with the blessing of the United States Supreme Court. Since then, the keys to the Internet have been turned over to a handful of profit-driven Telecoms and cable companies. Immediate restoration of well-established Net Neutrality principles is necessary to protect freedom and innovation on the Internet. [Read More >>](#)
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NEW TRIAL BEGINS IN DEFENSE OF ONLINE FREE SPEECH

The ACLU's fight against Internet censorship stretches back a decade and continues as we return to court for the latest round.

Congress first attempted to censor the Internet in 1996, when it passed the Communications Decency Act. The law criminalized "indecent" speech online. The ACLU sued, arguing that the law abridged the First Amendment. All nine Supreme Court justices agreed and struck down the law.

The legal battle continues with our challenge to the "Child Online Protection Act" (COPA) which would impose draconian criminal sanctions, including five-figure penalties and months of imprisonment, for online material acknowledged as valuable for adults but judged "harmful to minors." The law was signed by President Clinton in 1998 and has never been enforced.

"This case is about speech. It is not the role of the government to decide what people can see and use on the Internet," said lead counsel Chris Hansen, ACLU Senior Staff Attorney. "Those are personal decisions that should be made by individuals and their families. Congress does not have the right to censor information on the Internet. Americans have the right to participate in the global conversation that happens online every moment of every day."

For this latest round of a nearly 10-year court battle, a broad range of clients from the Internet world have joined in the challenge, including Salon.com, Nerve.com, UrbanDictionary.com, rappers, writers, painters, video artists, and providers of safer sex information.

The online censorship law has already been held unconstitutional twice, and the Supreme Court upheld the ban on enforcement of the law in June 2004. The Justices, however, also asked a Philadelphia court to

determine whether any changes in technology could affect the constitutionality of the statute.

The law will not provide effective protection for parents who are concerned about their children having access to some materials, lacking, among other things, jurisdiction over the more than 50 percent of online speech posted overseas, non-commercial sites and instant messaging, chat rooms or e-mail.

More information, including a full list of plaintiffs, legal documents and the history of Congress' attempts to censor the Internet, is available online at <http://action.aclu.org/site/R?i=-7YQixkl65IAhChKt4MpxA..>

FREE THE NET: WHY YOU SHOULD CARE ABOUT NET NEUTRALITY

The keys to the Internet have always been safely in public hands - until last year, when the FCC suddenly repealed longstanding Internet principles of "neutrality" and non-discrimination.

With the blessing of the Supreme Court, a handful of profit-driven telecoms and cable companies now could effectively shut down the 21st Century marketplace of ideas by screening Internet e-mail traffic, blocking what they deem to be undesirable content, or pricing users out of the marketplace.

Historically, Net Neutrality protections filled the free speech gap. Since those protections were removed last year, nothing prevents network providers from discriminating against Internet users and application and service providers in terms of content, quality of access, and choice of equipment.

If you're like many people using the Internet, you don't think about whether your Internet Service Provider is intentionally slowing down or speeding up your access to Yahoo! versus Google. Without Net Neutrality, your ISP could do just that.

Imagine if your phone company was allowed to own restaurants and then provided good service and clear signals to customers who called Dominos and static and frequent busy signals for those calling Pizza Hut.

It sounds outrageous, but it would be entirely possible if the telephone system wasn't regulated under the "common carrier" framework. The telecoms and cable companies that provide Internet network services, including AT&T, BellSouth, Comcast, Qwest, Sprint, Time-Warner/AOL, and Verizon, have spent over \$100 million lobbying Congress and the FCC to eliminate established Net Neutrality

protections.

The assault on Internet freedom will only get worse. The FCC imposed Net Neutrality protections in merger agreements for certain network providers such as SBC/AT&T and Verizon/MCI, but those protections expire in 2007. And in July 2006, the FCC declined to include any Net Neutrality protections in Comcast and Time-Warner's acquisition of Adelphia Cable.

The pattern of the FCC opposing Net Neutrality is expected to continue, as network providers continue to consolidate into an even smaller pool of Internet gatekeepers.

Without the vigorous non-discrimination principles in place before 2005, a few corporate conglomerates will control everything that you can say or do on the Internet. Net Neutrality is needed, and it is needed now.

Learn more about the fight for Net Neutrality at
http://action.aclu.org/site/R?i=DR8tUUU_ifeeGFbi-rZT6A..

HOW YOU CAN DEFEND NET NEUTRALITY

Several Senate bills claim to protect the Internet, but there's only one we think restores three time-honored protections in place before last year, the Internet Freedom Preservation Act.

This act ensures an Internet free of content discrimination. Internet users must be allowed to access the lawful websites of their choice, free of interference or degradation by network providers. The legislation also provides equal access to all users at an equal price. Network providers must be barred from giving preferential treatment to their own services at the expense of competing sites consumers want to use.

Network providers have already begun barring access, providing slower access, and/or charging higher premiums to popular services competing with their own. For example, Verizon Wireless recently announced it was blocking access to PayPal in favor of its own payment service.

Consumers must have the right to choose the equipment they want, or make it themselves, and attach it to any network. If Net Neutrality is not restored, network providers can render any competing equipment incompatible with their network gateways.

If you believe Net Neutrality is worth restoring and preserving, please let your senators know today. To take action, simply click here:

http://action.aclu.org/site/R?i=wC8PFd6hYne1DW_QwE2Ccg..

NET NEUTRALITY: MYTHS AND FACTS

MYTH: Net Neutrality will cause broadband networks to be abandoned.

FACT: Net Neutrality promotes broadband development by increasing Internet services and applications that generate new consumer demand. The increased demand for broadband resulting from Net Neutrality will lead to more investment in the next generation broadband networks, including the continued growth of fiber - optic cable.

MYTH: Yahoo! and Google get a "free ride" from network operators.

FACT: These Internet companies pay much more than the average web operator because their sites use greater bandwidth from host sites than other operators. There is nothing wrong with bandwidth purchasing plans based upon usage. Net Neutrality simply ensures that network operators cannot play favorites with their own services.

MYTH: Net Neutrality interferes with network management.

FACT: There is no evidence that this occurred prior to last year, when Net Neutrality was protected. Telephone companies have been able to regulate and manage their networks for years under "common carrier" regulations much more stringent than those proposed by Net Neutrality.

MYTH: Net Neutrality will stifle innovation on the Internet.

FACT: Today's vibrant Internet economy resulted from Net Neutrality protection during the Internet's infancy. Net Neutrality spurred innovation and commerce by preventing large companies from leveraging market power to stifle competition from smaller, dynamic web innovators.

Learn more about the fight for Net Neutrality at

<http://action.aclu.org/site/R?i=9xYixPeTrH9t9I2dgjcZZQ..>

Net Neutrality is essential to free speech, equal opportunity and economic innovation in America. Since the FCC removed this basic protection in 2005, the top executives of phone and cable companies have stated their intention to become the Internet's gatekeepers and to discriminate against Web sites that don't pay their added tolls.

This fundamental change would end the open Internet as we know it. It would damage my ability to

connect with others, share information and participate in our 21st century democracy and economy. The FCC must ensure that broadband providers do not block, interfere with or discriminate against any lawful Internet traffic based on its ownership, source or destination.